

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) A method of temporarily protecting a portion of a surface, which is to be coated with a coating compound which comprises:

a) applying a continuous coating of a masking material to a portion of said surface, which masking material comprises, before drying, an aqueous solution or emulsion consisting essentially of a film-forming, carboxylic acid-containing polymer;

b) coating said surface with a coating compound, said masking material preventing said coating compound from contacting said portion of said surface which is protected by said masking material; and, thereafter,

c) removing said masking material from said surface.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer is an acrylic or methacrylic acid-containing copolymer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said acrylic or methacrylic acid containing copolymer is a water soluble copolymer.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said surface is the surface of a motor vehicle.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said masking material comprises ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said masking material comprises sufficient alkali to neutralize and solubilize said polymer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the pH of said solution or emulsion is about 7.1.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said solution or emulsion has a viscosity of between about 1400 and 1700 c.p.s.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said aqueous solution or emulsion comprises from about 2 to about 10, weight percent, of said polymer.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said aqueous solution or emulsion comprises about 5 weight percent of said polymer.

11. (Previously Amended) A method of temporarily protecting a portion of a surface which is to be coated with a coating compound which comprises:

a) applying a continuous coating of a masking material to a portion of said surface, which masking material comprises, before drying, an aqueous solution or emulsion comprising, as the sole film-forming component, a carboxylic acid-containing copolymer;

b) coating said surface with a coating compound, said masking material preventing said coating compound from contacting said portion of said surface which is protected by said masking material; and, thereafter,

c) removing said masking material from said surface.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said copolymer is an acrylic or methacrylic acid-containing copolymer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said acrylic or methacrylic acid-containing copolymer is a water soluble copolymer.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said surface is the surface of a motor vehicle.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said masking material comprises ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said masking material comprises sufficient alkali to neutralize and solubilize said polymer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the pH of said solution or emulsion is about 7.1.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said solution or emulsion has a viscosity of between about 1400 and 1700 c.p.s.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said aqueous solution or emulsion comprises from about 2 to about 10, weight percent, of said copolymer.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said aqueous solution or emulsion comprises about 5 weight percent of said copolymer.

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said polymer is a copolymer of methacrylic acid and ethylacrylate.

24. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said copolymer is a copolymer of methacrylic acid and ethylacrylate.

25. (Withdrawn)

26. (Withdrawn)

27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1 wherein said masking material is removed solely with water.

28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 11 wherein said masking material is removed solely with water.

29. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said masking material is removed with water.

30. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein said masking material is removed with water.

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said masking material is removed by the application of pressurized water.

32. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein said masking material is removed by the application of pressurized water.